

# TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF, AND

LIST OF SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

BY

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*&c. &c. &c.*

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CANDIDATE FOR THE CHAIR OF BOTANY,

*In the University of Aberdeen.*

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BELFAST, *July* 12, 1859.

As a Candidate for the Chair of Botany in the University of Aberdeen, I beg leave to submit the following Statement, with the Lists and Testimonials which are annexed.

After passing through the Curriculum of Arts in Marischal College, I was admitted to the Degree of A.M. I then commenced a course of Medical study at the Aberdeen School, which was completed in Edinburgh ; after which I received the Diploma of Surgeon. Shortly afterwards I began to deliver Lectures on Botany, and was subsequently appointed to teach that subject in the Medical School of the University and King's College—the Senatus of which conferred upon me the Honorary Degree of M.D.

Some time before the opening of the Queen's Colleges in Ireland, I forwarded an application for one of the Chairs of Natural History. A List of my Contributions to scien-


tific Journals and Societies, together with Testimonials of my qualifications, were submitted to His Excellency Lord Clarendon, at that period Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. Several scientific friends, who favoured me by testifying as to my fitness for the office of a Professor, are now deceased, and I have not ventured again to trouble all who still survive—more especially because their opinions are alluded to in the letters from the President and Vice-President of our Belfast College. It may be sufficient to state, that among those Gentlemen were—Sir W. J. Hooker, Royal Garden, Kew ; the late Robert Brown, Esq. British Museum ; the late Professor E. Forbes ; the late Professor Fleming ; the late Professor Gregory ; the late Professor MacGillivray ; the late W. Thomson, Esq. of Belfast ; Dr. J. E. Gray, British Museum ; A. Thomson, Esq. of Banchory ; Dr. J. D. Hooker, Royal Garden, Kew ; Professor Balfour of Edinburgh ; M. Montagne, Paris ; Herr Kützing ; Professor Harvey, Trinity College, Dublin ; Professor G. W. Arnott, Glasgow ; Professor Lindley ; J. Mackay, Esq. F.L.S. ; Dr. Adams of Banchory, &c. &c.

Some idea of the nature and extent of the Courses delivered by me, since the opening of this College in 1849, may be gathered from the following brief outline, published annually in our *College Calendar* :—“ The Course of Zoology commences on the first Monday of November, and termi-

nates the first week of March ; it comprehends the outlines of Anatomy and Physiology, Systematic Zoology, and remarks on the Distribution of Animals. The Botanical part of the Course commences in the first week of March, and terminates in the middle of June ; it includes Vegetable Anatomy and Physiology, Systematic Botany, the Properties of Plants, and Distribution of Vegetable Forms. Meetings are held in the Botanic Garden, and excursions made into the neighbouring country. The Lectures on Physical Geography are delivered during the first, and part of the second terms of the Session ; they embrace the Structure and Forms of Continents and Islands ; the Distribution of Mountain Systems ; Rivers and Lakes ; the Ocean—its currents, &c. ; Meteorology. These subjects are considered in relation to the Geographical Distribution of Plants and Animals.”

G. DICKIE, M.D.





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## L I S T.

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I.—Papers by Dr. DICKIE, contributed, previously to 1849, to the *Magazine of Zoology and Botany*, the *London Journal of Botany*, the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, and the *Reports and Transactions of the Edinburgh Botanical Society* :—

Notes on the reproductive Organs of *Pilularia* and of *Chara*; on Gemmæ of *Bryum androgynum*; on Mosses found in the vicinity of Aberdeen; on reproductive Organs of Lichens; remarks on characters of *Fumariaceæ*; on some Viviparous Plants; on Gemmæ of *Polygonum viviparum*; on the Inflorescence of *Fedia*; the Structure and Morphology of *Marchantia*; on *Gelidium rostratum*; on the presence of Iodine in some Plants growing near the Sea; on the Development of Leaves; on a Monstrosity of *Gentiana campestris*; on the Physiology of Fecundation in Plants; on deposits of Fossil *Diatomaceæ* at Premnay and Peterhead, Aberdeenshire.

II.—“A Flora of Aberdeen.”

III.—Papers read before the Philosophical Society of Aberdeen, from its commencement to April, 1849 :—

On the Nature and Properties of *Fæcula*; on the Physical Characters of the higher Mountains of Aberdeenshire; on the Structure of the Shell of the Egg, and the Nature and Seat of the Colour (published in *Annals of Natural History*); on the Results obtained by seven Rain Gauges, at different localities near Aberdeen; on the *Marine Algæ* of the Coasts of Aberdeen and Kincardine (published in *Annals of Natural*

*History*); on the *Forest Trees* of Aberdeenshire (published in the *Journal of the Highland Society*); on the *Limits of Vegetation* in Aberdeenshire (published in *Hooker's Journal of Botany*); on *Vegetable Reproduction*; on the use of *Steeps for Seeds* (published in a local Agricultural Journal); on a collection of *Plants from the Falkland Islands*; on the *Prevailing Potato Disease* (a Report on this subject published at the request of the local Authorities); on the Hypothesis of Spontaneous Generation; on the *Silicious Infusoria, or Diatomaceæ*.

IV.—Papers read at the Meetings of the British Association since 1852, in Belfast, Liverpool, Glasgow, and Dublin :—

On the Distribution of the Algæ on the British and Irish Coasts with reference to the influence of the Gulf Stream.

On a Monstrosity of *Bellis perennis*.

On the Altitudinal Ranges of Plants in the North of Ireland.

On the Distribution and Habits of *Echinus lividus*.

On Associations of Colour, and Relations of Colour and Form, in Plants.

On the effects of the Winter of 1855 upon Vegetation at Aberdeen and Belfast.

On the Homologies of Lepismidæ.

A Report on the Fauna of Strangford Lough (published in the volume of Reports and Proceedings of the Association, 1857).

V.—The Botanical Appendix (Cryptogamia) to Dr Sutherland's Journal of Penny's Voyage in Search of Sir John Franklin.

VI.—The Botanical Appendix to Captain Inglefield's Search for Sir John Franklin.

VII.—Specimens, and Localities of Species, contributed to Sir W. J. Hooker's *British Flora*, Professor Harvey's *Phycologia Britannica*, Mr. Ralf's *British Desmideæ*, the late Professor Smith's *British Diatomaceæ*, and Dr. Hassal's *British Fresh Water Algæ*.

In these works are recorded the following Species added to the British Flora, some being also new to Science, discovered by Dr. DICKIE :—

*Carex rupestris*, *C. leporina*; *Cystopteris Dickieana*; *Oscillatoria Dickiei*; *Microcoleus gracilis*; *Depazea Linnææ*; *Lasiobotrys Linnææ*; *Staurostrum Dickiei*; *Epithemia Argus*; *Eunotia monodon*; *Eunotia diodon*; *Surirella turgida*; *Cymatopleura Hibernica*; *Navicula rhyncocephala*; *Pinnularia acuminata*, *Pinnularia alpina*, *Pinnularia divergens*; *Stauroneis dilatata*; *Synedra delicatissima*, *Synedra longissima*; *Achnanthidium microcephalum*; *Melosira nivalis*; *Orthosira Dickiei*; *Dickieia ulvoides*; *Dickieia pinnata*; *Schizonema confertum*; *Schizonema divergens*, *Schizonema molle*.

VIII.—During a dredging excursion in the Irish Channel, off Belfast Bay, in 1856, by G. C. Hyndman, Esquire, E. Waller, Esq., and Dr. Dickie, *Buccinum Holbolii* and other species were added to the Molluscan Fauna of the United Kingdom.

IX.—Of the Natural History of Ireland, by the late W. Thompson, Esq., the whole portion relative to the Invertebrata edited by Dr. DICKIE.

X.—Contributions to the late Professor MacGillivray's "*Natural History of Deeside*," printed by command of His Royal Highness Prince Albert.

XI.—Papers communicated to the Natural History and Philosophical Society of Belfast.\*

October, 1850. On Vegetable Embryology.

December, 1850. On Infusoria, so called.

\* Some of these communications were Lectures delivered at the public meetings to members and their friends; others are Original Papers, of which full reports or summaries have been published. This List (the XIth) is printed from one signed "James MacAdam, Secretary."

- October*, 1851. On the Cetacea.
- December*, 1852. On the Fauna and Flora of the Arctic Regions.
- January*, 1852. On the Currents of the Ocean.
- October*, 1853. On Form and Colour in Plants.
- November*, 1854. On the Axolotl, illustrated by specimens from Mexico.
- November*, 1854. On the Structure of the Flower.
- November*, 1855. On the Form of the individual Bones of the Skeleton.
- February*, 1856. On the Geographical Distribution of Plants useful to Man.
- November*, 1856. On the Homologies of Insects.
- February*, 1857. On the Colour of a Lake near Londonderry, occasioned by the presence of a Microscopical Plant.
- April*, 1857. On Whales and their Capture.

On a list of business for the Session 1857-58.

On the Teeth of Vertebrata.

On the Classification of the Mammalia with special reference to the Affinities of the Orders.

On a deposit of Shells, Fir-Cones, Leaves, and Wood, at Newcastle, County Down.

On a Deposit of Diatomaceæ in County Antrim.

XII.—“ Typical Forms and Special Ends in Creation. By M'Cosh and Dickie.” In this work, the Zoology, the Physiology, part of the Botany, the Geology, and the Physical Geography, were contributed by Dr. DICKIE.



## TESTIMONIALS.

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### I.

*From the REV. DR. HENRY, President, Queen's College, Belfast.*

QUEEN'S COLLEGE,

BELFAST, *January 12, 1858.*

AFTER nine years' experience of the merits and valuable services of Dr. DICKIE, as Professor of Natural History in this College, it affords me great satisfaction to record the following testimony.

Before the opening of the Queen's College, I had ample means of knowing that this gentleman was elected by Lord Clarendon to his important post, after a mature consideration of his antecedents and qualifications, as compared with those of numerous applicants, some of them very eminent.

The thoroughly efficient and successful manner in which Dr. DICKIE has, in every session, discharged his professional duties, fully justifies the prudence of this choice. Not only as a Lecturer, but as a Teacher and Examiner in his class-room, he has succeeded in inspiring his students with a true love for the natural sciences, and in imparting to their understandings a knowledge which has enabled them, in many instances, to hold the highest place when brought into competition for honours

or position with others. In this respect Dr. DICKIE has rendered a service to this College, for which I am truly grateful.

Not less useful has he been as a Member of the College Council in his turn, and as a man of sound judgment and extensive collegiate and general knowledge, whom it was always safe and satisfactory to consult.

As a Member of the Senate of the Queen's University, through which body Dr. DICKIE was appointed our Examiner for the degrees and exhibitions which they confer, I can state that he held, in the estimation of his distinguished colleagues, the highest position in regard both to the knowledge he possesses and the judicious application of it in conducting examinations.

In common with the other authorities here, I regard it as an honour to this College, while due to Dr. DICKIE, that last year he was selected as Examiner, in his department, of the candidates for the appointments in the East India Company's Service.

Whilst many distinguished Professors are in various quarters unable to control their classes, Dr. DICKIE, by a union of firmness and kindness, has always secured the observance of discipline in his class-room.

Taking, therefore, into account the learning, the earnestness, the experience, and various resources of this Gentleman, I think it would be difficult to find any one, in all respects, equal to him as a Professor.

(Signed) P. SHULDAM HENRY, D.D.,  
President.

## II.

*From DR. ANDREWS, Vice-President, and Professor of Chemistry,  
Queen's College, Belfast.*

*January 13, 1858.*

DR. DICKIE has requested me to give him a testimonial, with the view of promoting an application for a Professorship in Scotland; and, although it would be very presumptuous in me to testify to his special acquirements, I cannot decline to state what has come under my knowledge, in reference to his position in the scientific world, and to his general acquirements and character.

Previous to the opening of the Queen's College, Dr. DICKIE was selected from a large number of candidates, and received the appointment he now holds, in consequence of the very high testimonials he produced from Naturalists of eminence, the fidelity of which was fully confirmed on private inquiry. I may, perhaps, without impropriety, mention the name of the late lamented Professor E. Forbes as one who entertained a very high opinion of Dr. DICKIE's merits

Since his appointment, Dr. DICKIE has more than realised all that his warmest friends could have anticipated. He has performed the duties of his Chair with great ability; and has succeeded in diffusing a taste for the study of Natural History among a large number of the students of the College. He is an excellent Lecturer; expressing himself with great clearness and precision, and bringing to bear upon every subject of which he treats the resources of an enlarged and well-informed mind. In addition to the subjects of Zoology and Botany, Dr. DICKIE, at the request of the College Council, undertook to deliver an annual Course of Lectures on Physical Geography, which has been very instructive and useful.



It is unnecessary for me to do more than mention that on more than one occasion Dr. DICKIE has acted as our Examiner at the Queen's University in Ireland, and that he was last year Examiner in the Natural Sciences for the Civil Service in India.

By his colleagues he has been always held in the highest estimation. He combines in a rare degree firmness and rectitude of character with great kindness of disposition ; and he has been at all times most zealous in promoting the general interests of the College. His loss will be severely felt here ; but personal feeling must not be allowed to interfere with the promotion of what he considers would be an improvement in his position in life.

(Signed)      THOMAS ANDREWS, M.D.

### III.

*From* SIR W. J. HOOKER, *Director, Royal Gardens, Kew.*

UNDERSTANDING that Dr. GEORGE DICKIE is a Candidate for a Professorship of Botany about to be established in the University of Aberdeen, I willingly offer my testimony of his thorough competency to fulfil the duties of so important a Chair. Both in Aberdeen, where he was some time a Lecturer on Botany in one of the Colleges, and since his removal to the Chair of Natural History in Belfast, he has given ample proofs of his ability, assiduity, and extensive acquirements in Botany and the sciences bearing on it, and I confidently recommend him as deserving of the honour to which he aspires.

(Signed)      W. J. HOOKER.

ROYAL GARDENS, KEW,  
11th December, 1858.

## IV.

*From DR. G. W. ARNOTT, Regius Professor of Botany,  
University of Glasgow.*

MY DEAR SIR,

As it is probable that the University Commissioners may consider it expedient to institute a Professorship of Botany at Aberdeen, it appears to me highly desirable for the interests of science that you make application for it.

Previous to your being appointed to Belfast, your knowledge of the vegetation (Phanerogamous, Cryptogamous, and Microscopic) of the Counties of Kincardine, Aberdeen, and Banff, was superior to that of any other, as the numerous papers read by you before various societies, many of which were published, amply testified. And it is important that you be placed, as soon as an opportunity offers itself, in a position where you can complete your observations, and thus be enabled to give to the public your projected Flora of the Counties above mentioned.

In teaching a Class of Botany a knowledge of the Anatomy and Physiology of Plants is indispensable ; and several papers on these subjects, published by you years ago (particularly one on the Ovule of Euphrasia, which was deemed worthy of being translated and reprinted in France), indicate the success which has attended your labours in that direction.

If I remember correctly you were Lecturer in Aberdeen before you were removed to Belfast in 1849, so that you have not only theory but long experience to guide you in the instruction of others.

When a Chair is founded, much of its success for many years depends on a judicious selection of the first Professor. That consideration induced me to recommend your nomination to the

Queen's College of Belfast ; the same now prompts me to express my hope that you may obtain the Chair in your native city. I know of none at all likely to become a candidate, who, in my opinion, has the same claims.

(Signed) G. WALKER ARNOTT.

GLASGOW, *October 7th*, 1858.

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*From* DR. HARVEY, *Professor of Botany, University of Dublin.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I SHOULD have thought that a testimonial to your capacity as a Botanist would in your case be wholly unnecessary. You are so well known by your writings, and have for so long a time been a successful Lecturer, that there can be but one opinion of your fitness to fill a Botanical Chair, with honour to yourself and advantage to the institution to which you may be appointed.

Having had occasion, as examiner in Dublin University, to test the merits of some of your former pupils, I can vouch for the sound manner in which they seem to have been instructed. On the last occasion one of your pupils obtained the gold medal and first prize of his class.

Your former medical training must be of advantage, as enabling you to direct the studies in Botany most important to medical students. I make no doubt, therefore, that your appointment to the new Botanical Chair in Aberdeen would in all respects advance the study of Botany in that University.

Believe me, yours truly,

(Signed) W. H. HARVEY, M.D., F.R.S., &c.

*October 16th*, 1858.

## VI.

*From* DR. BALFOUR, *Professor of Botany, University, Edinburgh.*

DR. G. DICKIE has been long known to me as an enthusiastic and zealous cultivator of Science. While he is well acquainted with Natural History in general, he has devoted special attention to Botany. He became known as a Lecturer on Botany in the University and King's College, Aberdeen, and he was afterwards transferred to the College of Belfast, as Professor of Natural History.

He is an able and successful Lecturer, and has the power of communicating information to his pupils in a clear and distinct manner. He has written able papers on Botany, more particularly on the subject of Embryogeny, and on the Distribution of Colours in Flowers. He has also, along with the Rev. Dr. M'Cosh, published a valuable work on the Typical Forms of Animals and Plants, and on the adaptations observed in their structure.

In every point of view, whether I regard Dr. DICKIE as a man of science, a lecturer, a member of society, or a Christian naturalist, I consider him as peculiarly qualified for the office of Professor of Botany in the University of Aberdeen.

(Signed) J. H. BALFOUR,

M.D., F.R.S. L. & E., F.L.S.

*October 26th, 1858.*



